

Eucalyptus andrewsii subsp. *campanulata*

New England blackbutt, Gum-topped peppermint

Classification

Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Cineraceae | Psathyroxylon | Considerianae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus andrewsii* subsp. *campanulata (R.T.Baker & H.G.Sm.) L.A.S.Johnson & Blaxell, *Contr. New South Wales Natl Herb.* 4: 381 (1973).

Eucalyptus campanulata R.T.Baker & H.G.Sm., *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 45: 288, t. 13 (1912). T: Tenterfield, NSW, Dec. 1909, *C.F.Laseron s.n.*; holo: Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney; iso: NSW.

Description

Tree to 45 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough throughout or only on trunk and large branches, finely fibrous (like peppermints), grey or grey-brown, smooth bark whitish.

Branchlets sometimes glaucous.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves initially opposite but soon becoming alternate, petiolate, ovate to lanceolate or falcate, 7–13 cm long, 3–5 cm wide, margin entire, blue-green or grey-green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1.1–2.3 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 9–17.5 cm long, 1.5–4 cm wide, base oblique or tapering evenly to petiole, margin entire, concolorous, glossy or dull, green to slightly blue-green, side-veins acute, sparsely to moderately reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and well removed from margin, oil glands numerous, island.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 1–2 cm long, buds 11 to 15 per umbel, pedicels 0.4–0.7 cm long. **Mature buds** clavate, 0.3–0.5 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide, glaucous or non-glaucous, scar absent, operculum conical or rounded and apiculate, stamens inflexed or irregularly flexed, a few staminodes present or all stamens perfect, anthers reniform to cordate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by confluent slits, style short, locules 3 or 4(5) each with 2 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

Fruit on pedicels 0.3–0.6 cm long, obconical, 0.4–0.6 cm long, 0.4–0.7 cm wide, disc slightly raised, level or slightly descending, valves 3 or 4(5), near rim level.

Seeds dark brown, 1–2.5 mm long, pyramidal or obliquely pyramidal, dorsal surface smooth, hilum terminal.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons reniform; stems rounded in cross-section; leaves more or less sessile, opposite, discolorous, elliptic and held horizontally for lowest ca 5 to 7 nodes, then becoming petiolate, alternate, pendulous, ovate, 5–12 cm long, 2–4.5 cm wide, base oblique to tapering, grey-green throughout.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in October, November and December.

Notes

Eucalyptus andrewsii is a small to tall tree species belonging to the blue-leaved ash group and occurs from the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales north sporadically to the vicinity of Eungella, west of Mackay in Queensland. It has grey peppermint-type bark and is easily recognisable in the field by the large, pendulous, alternating, broadly falcate, bluish green juvenile leaves of the regrowth particularly on roadsides.

There are two subspecies:

E. andrewsii subsp. **andrewsii**

Has a more or less hemispherical to cupular fruit and, in New South Wales, occurs mainly on the western side of the Northern Tablelands,



extending into south-east Queensland on similar country, and further to the north with sporadic occurrences south-west of Gladstone, west of Maryborough and west of Mackay.

E. andrewsii subsp. **campanulata**

Occurs more on the eastern side of the Northern Tablelands, New South Wales and adjacent areas of far south-east Queensland. It has obconical to cupular fruit reminiscent of *E. sieberi*, of southern New South Wales, eastern Victoria and Tasmania. The bark of *E. sieberi* is, however, black and furrowed.

E. andrewsii belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Eucalyptus* section *Cineraceae* series *Psathyroxylon* and has the following characters: cotyledons reniform, juvenile leaves alternate, bluish, adult leaves with side-veins acute, single axillary inflorescences with buds in clusters of 11 to 15, buds with single operculum, inflexed stamens, some outer stamens without anthers (staminodes), the remainder with reniform anthers, style usually short, ovules in two rows, and seeds \pm pyramidal. Within series *Psathyroxylon*, *E. andrewsii* is closely related to four other tree species, three with rough, finely fibrous bark on the trunks: *E. consideniana*, from southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria; *E. remota*, which is endemic to Kangaroo Island, South Australia; and *E. olida*, which occurs on the eastern side of the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales and can be distinguished by the unpleasant odour of the adult leaves and the long style. The fourth rough-barked species related to *E. andrewsii* is *E. sieberi* from southern New South Wales, eastern Victoria and Tasmania which has hard, blackish, furrowed, rough bark on the trunk. A fifth species in this group, *E. multicaulis*, is a mallee south from the Wollemi area of New South Wales to about Pigeon House Mountain and has little or no rough bark. These six species form subseries *Considenianae*.

In 1997 Tony Bean described *E. montivaga* from Queensland, distributed from near Toowoomba north to Eungella, always on high mountain tops. We don't find this taxon significantly different to *Eucalyptus andrewsii* subsp. *andrewsii* and include it in synonymy.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus andrewsii: after Ernest Clayton Andrews (1870–1948). Ernest Andrews was Government Geologist of New South Wales from 1921 until he retired in 1931. Whilst most of his writings were on geological and geographic subjects, he also wrote *The Geologic History of the Australian Flowering Plants* (1916), *Origin of Pacific Insular Floras* (1939) and a paper on *The Development and Distribution of the Natural Order Leguminosae* (1914). He had an intense interest in Australian plant ecology and the geographical distribution of the native flora.

subsp. *campanulata*: Latin *campanulatus*, bell-shaped, referring to the fruit.

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